

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed November 17, 2006.

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 25-30 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 2-24 are the claims currently presented for examination.

Claims 9-12 and 20-23 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim but are stated to be otherwise allowable.

Claims 2-9, 11-20 and 22-24 are amended to conform them more closely to U.S. patent practice style. The claims that depended directly from canceled claim 1 are amended so they depend from a pending claim.

Claims 1-8, 13-19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Ouchi (5,897,487). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

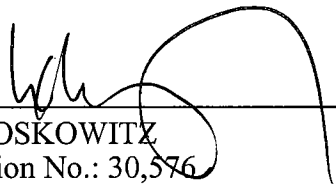
Claims 9 and 20 are rewritten as independent claims. The remaining claims depend from claims 9 and 20 and therefore are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present Amendment or regarding the application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-provided telephone number.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
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Respectfully submitted,


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